

HOUSE No. 4284

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

By Ms. Wolf of Cambridge, for the committee on Elder Affairs, on Senate, No. 323 and House, No. 537, that the Bill relative to dementia patients in long-term care facilities (House, No. 4284) October 15, 2009.

An Act Relative to Dementia Patients in longterm Care Facilities.

FOR THE COMMITTEE:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Alice K. Wolf	25th Middlesex

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

An Act Relative to Dementia Patients in longterm care facilities.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which Is forthwith to provide regulations for dementia special care units in long term care facilities, therefore, given the increased level of dementia among residents, it Is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 111 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 71B the following sections:-

Section 71C. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the department of public health, in consultation with the Alzheimer's Association of Massachusetts and representatives from the nursing home provider community, shall adopt regulations to establish minimum standards for dementia special care units to ensure safety and quality of services including:

1. Dementia-specific training for all direct care workers, activities directors and supervisors of direct care workers in both traditional nursing homes and dementia special care units (SCUs).
2. Activities programs in SCUs that provide dementia-specific activities.
3. Guidelines for SCU physical design including but not limited to anti-wandering methods and a therapeutic environment.

(b) A licensee under section 71 that holds itself out to the public or advertises that it is a provider of specialized services and programming for dementia special care units in long term care facilities must meet the standards set forth under this section in order to provide said services. Nursing homes that operate SCUs must disclose to consumers and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health what specialized services the SCU provides for patients affected by Alzheimer's and related dementias.

Section 710. A licensee of the Department of Public Health under section 71 shall be required to provide dementia specific training for all direct care workers, activities directors and supervisors of direct care workers in both traditional nursing homes and dementia special care units (SCUs).

22 SECTION 2. The department of public health shall adopt its Initial regulations to implement
23 this act not later than January 1, 2010.